THE URBAN DISTRICT OF KIRKHAM

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

PUBLIC HEALTH, 1969

J. E. MORRIS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

A. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF KIRKHAM

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1969

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

J. E. Morris, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. J. Hunt, M.B., B.S.(London), D.P.H.(London)

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

A. Young, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

DEPUTY SURVEYOR AND ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

M. B. Bamber, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.T.C.S., Dip.H.Eng., To: April, 1969

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

C. C. Burgess, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H., From: July, 1969

A N N U A L H E A L T H R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1969

To the Chairman and Members of the

Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1969.

The vital statistics for the area remained generally satisfactory during the year and there were no large scale outbreaks of infectious illness during the year.

My thanks are again due to my colleagues in the Health Department for their loyalty and assistance.

To you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Health Committee, my appreciation of the encouragement and support offorded to me.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. E. MORRIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	904
Home Population	6,380
(at the 1961 census the population was 4,811. The estimated mid-year home population in 1967 was 6,380)..	
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/69	1,843
Rateable value at 31/12/69	£201,414
Amount produced by a penny rate	£822

VITAL STATISTICS

Births - 88 live births (41 males and 47 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 14.6 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 12.9 per 1,000 in 1968.

Stillbirths - There was one stillbirth during the year making a stillbirth rate of 11 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 25.0 in 1968.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 89

Deaths - 72 deaths (41 males and 31 females) were registered during the year. The death rate of 14.5 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 16.5 per 1,000 in 1968.

Infantile Mortality - 2 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 2 in 1968, giving a rate of 24 per 1,000.

Neo-natal mortality - 1 death under 4 weeks of age giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 11 per 1,000 total live births compared with Nil in 1968.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was 11 compared with Nil in 1968.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) - Number of deaths Nil. Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths was Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1969.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	T.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostrate	3	-	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	3	9
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
Mental Disorders	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	5	4	9
Other Forms of Heart Disease	1	2	3
Cerebrovascular Disease	7	3	10
Other Disease of Circulatory System	2	-	2
Influenza	1	-	1
Pnenmonia	-	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	2	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	1	1	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1	1
Congenital Anomolies	-	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	-	1	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	1	2
	41	31	72

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years:

	England & Wales		Kirkham Urban District	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
Year				
1965	18.1	11.5	19.8	12.1
1966	17.7	11.7	19.3	13.7
1967	17.2	11.2	14.9	15.6
1968	16.9	11.9	12.9	16.5
1969	16.3	11.9	14.6	14.5

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:-

Medical Officer of Health:

J. E. MORRIS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H.

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health, Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde, Preesall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. J. HUNT, M.B., B.S.(LONDON), D.P.H.(LONDON).

Public Health Inspector:

A. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,

Other appointments held: Surveyor, Building Inspector and Housing Manager with Kirkham U.D.C.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

M. B. BAMBER, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.T.C.S., Dip.H.Eng. To: April, 1969

C. C. BURGESS, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H. From: July, 1969

Hospital Facilities - For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes, Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities - The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles operating through the County's radio scheme.

Laboratory Facilities - Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories attached to Preston Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home - General nursing cases and confinements are attened by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

School Medical, Maternity and Child Welface Clinics - A County Council Clinic is located in Moor Street and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows:-

Monday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Monday, p.m. - Audiometric (one a month) approximately.

Tuesday, a.m. - Chiropody for Schools (Alternate Tuesday 9-10)

Tuesday, p.m. - Relaxation Classes (Ante Natal).

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Chiropody.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Wednesday, p.m. - Cytology (Cervical Smear Test) (Every 3rd Week).

Thursday, p.m. - Immunisations (Excluding Smallpox).

Thursday, p.m. - Smallpox Vacination (Second Thursday in each month).

Thursday, p.m. - Child Welface Clinic.

Friday, p.m. - Ante Natal (alternate Fridays).

Friday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Friday, a.m. and p.m. - Speech Therapy.

Friday, a.m. - Child Welfare Centre (Immunisation and Vaccination)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1969.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified													
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever														
Whooping Cough	3			2			1							
Acute Poliomyelitis:- Paralytic														
" Non-Paralytic														
Measles (excluding Rubella)	14		2	3	2	4	2	1						
Diphtheria														
Dysentery	1									1				
Meningococcal Infection														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum														
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl.)														
Smallpox														
Acute Encephalitis - Infective														
" Post-Infectious														
Enteric or Typhoid Fever														
Paratyphoid Fevers														
Erysipelas														
Food Poisoning														
Puerperal Pyrexia														
Infective Jaundice	1								1					
Other Notifiable Diseases														
TOTAL	19	-	2	5	2	4	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Committee.

In 1969 there were two new cases notified and no deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Kirkham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual report for the year 1969.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE OF THE DISTRICT

Drainage and Sewerage of the District - The main watercourse draining the district is Wrongway Brook, Carr Brook, Dow Brook. Wrongway Brook enters the Urban District in the north west from the Fylde Rural District and flows in a general south east direction across the Urban District (leaving the district as Dow Brook). A second watercourse rising in the south of the district on the former R.A.F. camp site and flowing north via the Orders Lane culvert joins Wrongway Brook to form Carr Brook, on reaching the district boundary it is joined by Spen Brook and is known as Dow Brook on the south eastern boundary of the district.

The sewers of Kirkham flow into the valley of Wrongway Brook where they join the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Trunk Sewer, which commences at Station Road, Kirkham, receiving the sewage from Wesham and the north part of Kirkham. It then follows the Wrongway Brook, Dow Brook watercourse to the sewage disposal works at Freckleton.

The responsibility for maintaining the Joint Trunk Sewer and the Sewage Disposal works is held by the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

During the year a scheme, prepared by Consultants Messrs. Ward, Ashcroft and Parkman, employed jointly by the Kirkham Urban and Fylde Rural District Councils was submitted to and an inquiry held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for replacing this existing sewer and the sewerage works.

The Council also commissioned Consultants to carry out a survey of the existing sewerage system within the Kirkham Urban District and to report on the most satisfactory method of dealing with the internal flooding problems of the district. This information was also required by the Ministry to asses the proposed Joint Sewerage Scheme. The fieldwork was carried out by the Consultants in conjunction with the Council Staff and a scheme was finally approved by the Council for the provision of a surface water sewerage system throughout the major part of the district and the replacement of lengths of defective butt jointed tile sewers. When fully implemented this scheme will eliminate the present unsatisfactory storm overflows which now come into operation even under showery conditions and give rise to pollution of Wrongway Brook.

A television survey of the Wrongway Brook culvert was also carried out in co-operation with the Fylde Rural District Council. This survey confirmed the opinion that the culvert was in a delapidated condition and that its replacement as part of the Kirkham and Fylde Joint Scheme was essential and should be undertaken with the minimum of delay.

Until the whole of the proposed Joint Sewerage Scheme and the Internal Drainage Scheme is completed it is essential that frequent inspections of the overflows and sewers are maintained in order to minimise the amount of flooding in various parts of the district.

Water Supply - Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surfaces sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder with additional supplies from deep bores at Broughton. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have supplies available from this source and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. Fluoride is present in the water supply to the extent of 0.1 parts per million.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Complaints - 629 complaints were received during the year many of these being from Council House tenants regarding repairs and defects. 1016 visits were made in connection with this work.

Statutory Nuisances discovered numbered 289 of which 261 are abated the remaining 28 being carried forward to next year.

Two statutory notices were served during the year which resulted in the nuisances being remedied by the owners of the properties.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

During the year under review 15 applications for Standard Grants were received and 14 approved and 10 grants totaling £940 0s. 0d. were paid.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

No caravan sites now exist in the town.

DISINFESTATIONS

Infestations by parasitical vermin has greatly declined since the advent of D.D.T. and the higher standards of living. However, there are still houses in the town which require treatment from time to time, these houses often, but not always are inhabited by aged persons. The Council undertake to spray free of charge houses where infestations are discovered. Free issues of D.D.T. powder are available at the Council Offices. Infestations by Ants are not uncommon and often occur in better class properties. A residual lacquer aerosol has proved most effective in some cases.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Properties were visited in connection with infectious diseases and disinfection carried out where necessary. A vacuum steam sterilizer is available at Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool for treatment of affected bedding and clothing.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Smoke nuisances from industrial chimneys occur from time to time in the town although none are considered serious enough to warrant legal action. Very few complaints are received by the Department in this respect but observations are taken on occasions and consultations have taken place with the boilermen and management. During the year a few complaints were received regarding the burning of industrial waste in the open. All these complaints were remedied on inspection of the premises.

The town is fortunate in being surrounded by a green belt and being somewhat isolated from the great conurbations of Lancashire, thus more effective dispersal and dilution with the atmosphere is achieved; however, "lung level" smoke from domestic dwellings particularly bungalows abounds during the winter months.

FOOD AND DRUGS

All food establishments in the town continue to maintain a standard consistent with the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations by this Department.

One slaughterhouse is in operation in the town and is visited each morning for purposes of meat inspection.

Meat Inspection: All meat for human consumption killed in the town is inspected and stamped with the Council's mark as being fit for human consumption. A charge is made for this service.

Other Foods: The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

10 lbs. Canned Meat, 174 lbs. Other Canned Foods

Carcases inspected and condemned were as follows:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	223	-	-	1,083	653
Number Inspected	223	-	-	1,083	653
All diseases - except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	133	-	-	289	139
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	59.6%	-	-	26.9%	21.3%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.3%
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Milk Supply and Distribution -

Dairies in the district 8

Shops in the district other than dairies 5

No complaints were received in regard to the milk supply. Only "Specially designated" milk (that is pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin tested milk) can now be sold in Kirkham under the provsions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) order, 1955, which came into force on the 6th December, 1955.

ICE CREAM

Some 36 premises are registered with the Council for sale and storage of Ice Cream. These have all been inspected and found satisfactory.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

Twelve samples of ice cream were obtained from premises within the district and sent for examination. Eleven of these samples returned satisfactory results and on re-sampling the other sample returned a satisfactory result.

SWIMMING BATH WATER SAMPLING

Six samples of swimming bath water from Kirkham Baths were obtained and sent for examination. All these samples returned satisfactory results.

MEAT PRODUCTS

Four premises are registered with the Council for the manufacture of made-up meat products. Since ice cream and partly cooked meat products are particularly viable and highly susceptible to contamination these premises require constant supervision and inspection in order to maintain a high standard of hygiene.

Food Sampling by the Lancashire County Council.

5 Milk Samples and 12 Samples of other foods as follows:-

1 Kippers	1 Dried Onion
1 Dairy Ice Cream	1 Gravy Salt
1 Ice Lollies	1 Cocktail Sausages in Brine, Canned.
1 Fresh Gooseberries	1 Dried Peas
1 Orange Crush	1 Strawberry Mousse
1 Ice Cream	1 Steak Pie

All samples were satisfactory with the exception of the undermentioned one sample.

Steak Pie - Contained a triangular shaped piece of hide bearing brown hair weighting 1.69 grammes and measuring 22 x 19 x 17 millimetres with thickness 6 millimetres. The hair being maximum length 29 millimetres. Bakers cautioned.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council undertake the collection and disposal of household and certain trade refuse in the area.

Trade refuse from the shops mainly in the form of waste paper and packings is collected weekly on a separate basis.

Disposal of the refuse is by controlled tipping, at Coronation Road Tip. The land is being reclaimed for use as playing fields.

The domestic refuse collection service continues to operate smoothly and effeciently and it is a pleasure to report that members of the public have seen fit to remark on the regularity and efficiency of this onerous task.

The salvage collection service suffered during the year due to inclement weather conditions and the salvage vehicle being engaged on refuse collection.

The number of men engaged on the work is as follows:-

1 Driver 5 Loaders	Full-time
1 Driver 2 Salvage Collectors 1 Salvage Baler	Part-time

All waste paper is sold under contract to Thames Board Mills Ltd., after being baled at the Council Depot.

The total income for salvage during the year was £673 1s. 3d.

The total tonnage salvaged was as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Waste Paper (all grades)	78	12	-	-
Rags and Metals	3	10	-	-
	82	2	-	-

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT

Three premises are registered under the above Act. The amount of this material used is very small since the advent of latex foams.

No samples were taken during the year.

OFFICES AND SHOPS ACT 1963

All premises coming within the scope of the Offices and Shops Act some 76 in all - were fully inspected during the year and where repairs and improvements were necessary then these were put in hand.

RODENT CONTROL

53 properties including business premises were treated during the year for infestations of Rats and Mice. One workman is employed on a part-time basis as a Rodent Operative and has attended Ministry Courses in modern methods of control.

Test baiting of sewers was also carried out during the year for any evidence of rats. No evidence was found of any rodent infestation in the sewers which were baited.

The brooks and tip area, however, require frequent inspection and control but no large scale infestation has been found and an Official of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food inspected Coronation Road Tip and it was pleasing to note that he commented that the tip was free from any major infestation.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Fifteen premises are licensed to store petroleum. The majority of storage is in underground tanks. The total storage capacity is 37,100 gallons.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books	1,843
Number of new houses erected during year:	
(a) By Local Authority	NIL
(b) By other bodies or persons	44
Number of houses closed or demolished during the year	15
Number of persons displaced	13
Number of improvement grant applications received during the year	1
Number of standard grant applications received during the year	15
Number of standard grants approved during the year	14

FACTORY ACT 1961

There are some 22 Factories registered with the Council. Certain provisions of the Act are administered by this Department and in this connection all factories on the Register were inspected during the year.

Notices were served concerning contraventions of the Act and in all cases work was completed or put in hand.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

There are few complaints regarding noise in the town but where this occurs it has always been possible to abate the nuisance informally and without re-course to legal action.

STAFF

I would like to express my thanks to members of the Staff, the Foreman and all Workmen, for their excellent and willing co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. YOUNG.